

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of:

ALTENBUCHNER, *et al.*

(Div. of Appl. No.: 09/285,055)

Filed: January 15, 2002 (herewith)

For: **Recombinant L-N-Carbamoylase from
Arthrobacter Aurescens and Method
of Producing L-Amino Acids Therewith**

Art Unit: to be assigned

Examiner: to be assigned

Atty. Dkt.: 21123/284981

Preliminary Amendment

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In advance of prosecution, please amend the above-captioned application as follows:

In the Specification:

Please amend the enclosed application by providing a new cross reference to related applications before the first line of the specification, which reads as follows:

-- Cross Reference to Related Applications

The present application is a division of U.S. application 09/285,055, filed April 2, 1999, which claims priority to German application 198 14 813.5 filed on April 2, 1998.--

In the Claims:

Please cancel all claims 1-8 without prejudice.

Amendment

Claims 1-8 were cancelled. The remaining claims correspond to, and are supported by, the claims in non-elected restriction Group III, original claims 9-15, as set forth by the Examiner in the Office Action dated June 21, 2000, in the parent application 09/285,055.

Conclusion

The amendments above do not add new matter to the application, and their entry is therefore respectfully requested. It is believed that the present application is now in condition for immediate allowance and early notice to such effect is earnestly solicited.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a phone call may help to expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' undersigned attorney at (703) 905-2173.

Respectfully submitted,

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enclosure